

Mrs. Lillian Lindley's Shocking Experience with Millionaire Knowlton's Pet Ape Which Broke Loose, Invaded Her Home, Attacked the Babies at Breakfast and Threw the Bulldog

"We were at breakfast. Suddenly a hairy monster sprang into the room. I was giving the children their oatmeal when the animal entered. He stopped and seemed to sniff the oatmeal with relish. My babies and I were paralyzed with fright."

With these words Mrs. Lillian S. Lindley began the recital to a jury in Los Angeles of an experience unparalleled in all the records of all the courts in the United States. The similarity of Mrs. Lindley's own frightful experience with the hideous events recounted in "The Murders of the Rue Morgue" by Edgar Allan Poe, are indeed startling. It was an experience which Mrs. Lindley will never fully recover from, and the jury promptly awarded her a verdict of damages against the owner of the ape which intruded on her little family circle.

Frozen with terror Mrs. Lindley stared at the monster, but was instantly aroused to action when the hairy visitor stretched out a long, aggressive arm and jerked her four-year-old baby girl, Miriam, toward him with a brutal grin.

Leaping from her seat at the table the frantic mother went to the rescue of little Miriam, but was shaken off by the ape. At the same moment the family bulldog gripped the bristly ankle of the chimpanzee. A huge brown hand descended, seized the dog's collar, and with an easy backward gesture threw the growling bulldog out of the open window.

Inspired by mother love and forgetful of her danger Mrs. Lindley again tackled the brute. Her clenched hands fitted frantically like a humming bird's before the chimpanzee's eyes. She beat at the creature's hardened chest and strained to loosen his grasp upon poor Miriam.

Just what purpose the ape had in mind is not clear, but his attention was fixed upon the child, and the attack of the little one's mother gave him no concern whatever. As the ape's fingers circled the throat of the little one Mrs. Lindley screamed piercingly. He loosened his clasp on Miriam and for the first time took note of the mother.

As Miriam dropped to the floor Mrs. Lindley seized the child in her arms and looked toward the nine-year-old son, Milton. The ape sensed the meaning of her glance, and seizing Milton around the neck threw the boy across the room. Darting to where he lay, Mrs. Lindley lifted him and pushed him into a closet along with baby Miriam. In another moment she had herself stepped inside the closet and locked the door, leaving their uninvited guest alone in the dining room.

Before long a shout from neighbors in the front yard told the terrified mother that the chimpanzee had departed. He had made his way from the invaded home by sliding from a rear window down an eave spout, after the custom of Poe's mysterious murderer of the Rue Morgue, who avoided paths of mankind and glided in and out of third-story apertures by stealthily moving, hand over hand, over cornices, drain pipes and shutters.

The ape in the modern instance, however, did not depart until he had poured onto the dining room table the hot oatmeal breakfast Mrs. Lindley was preparing to serve her brood when he entered. But he is said to have intelligently waited until the gruel was cool and then to have scooped it into his jaws with audible smacks of relish.

The suits for damages which Mrs. Lindley, her husband, O. P. Lindley, and her son, Master Milton Lindley, later filed in the County Superior Court named Colonel E. W. Knowlton as the owner of the beast.

Knowlton is a millionaire patent medicine manufacturer and a connoisseur of sorts. At the time Mrs. Lindley's home was invaded Knowlton was also a collector of simians. He maintained a palatial place at No. 395 Grand avenue, the famous "Millionaires' Row" of Pasadena. When Knowlton took the witness stand in his own defense and that of his pet's characteristics of the beast which Mrs. Lindley alleged had disturbed the tranquillity of her home.

According to Knowlton, the pet frequently wore clothes like a man, carried

Out the Window

"Frozen with terror Mrs. Lindley stared at the monster, but was instantly aroused to action when the hairy visitor stretched out a long, aggressive arm and jerked her four-year-old baby girl, Miriam, toward him with a brutal grin."

a cane, smoked cigarettes, had been a movie actor, and meant no harm to any child, especially to Mrs. Lindley's.

At this point the court cut the millionaire's testimony off shortly by ruling that culture was merely superficial and that all monkeys were wild beasts no matter what their training.

When Mrs. Lindley appeared on the stand, her appearance corroborated the story of nervous shock given her by the monkey. Her face was thin and drawn. Even her hair was cut short, for she said she could not bear its weight when grown to normal length. A nurse, Mrs. Lillian McEneany, from a local sanatorium, accompanied Mrs. Lindley to the courtroom and cared for her during the trial. Dr. Ross Moore, a Los Angeles physician, testified for her.

Knowlton's contention throughout was that Mrs. Lindley had suffered no shattered nerves and that his chimpanzee meant no harm.

A demand of total damages amounting to \$56,250 was made in the complaint filed by the Lindleys in the Los Angeles Superior Court, June 24, 1914.

Of this amount Mrs. Lindley demanded \$40,000, alleging she was made sick and hysterical by the behavior of the beast, and the amount was necessary to repay her for her sufferings.

The balance of \$16,250 was demanded by O. P. Lindley to reimburse him for expenses of medical treatment for Mrs. Lindley and his individual loss resulting from her illness.

A jury in Judge Louis W. Myers's court awarded the Lindleys \$2,000 damages, May 28, 1915; \$1,750 for Mrs. Lindley and \$250 for her husband. Judge Myers denied them a motion for a new trial July 26, 1915.

But the Lindleys returned to the attack on November 5, 1917, when their son Milton, filed suit in the Los Angeles Superior Court for \$15,000.

It was claimed in this complaint that Milton constantly dreamed of monkeys and had not slept soundly since the day he was attacked. In the subsequent testimony it was brought out that Milton made "monkey faces" in school at his classmates since his terrifying experience with the chimpanzee. The case was heard before Judge Dehl, who, under date of January 22, 1918, rendered a verdict of \$1,000 for the boy.

In the meantime Knowlton had appealed the former case from Judge Myers's court to the Supreme Court of California, and on November 19, 1918, Justice H. W. Melvin in San Francisco affirmed the decision of the lower Los Angeles court which awarded \$2,000 damages to Mr. and Mrs. Lindley.

Much interesting detail regarding the

chimpanzee was brought out during the legal episodes. The simian's name was Charles H. Fuller, so christened by Mr. Knowlton in honor of an esteemed friend of his, a Chicagoan, who bore that name.

The animal was the largest in Knowlton's collection, which then numbered more than thirty. His weight was 165 pounds and he stood slightly more than four feet in height. He is said to have been of prodigious strength.

"Never again,"

expressively groaned millionaire Knowlton, according to a newspaper correspondent who interviewed him a few days after the first adverse legal decision.

"Never again will I monkey with monkeys on my place."

The millionaire held up one hand as he declared it, as though he were taking an oath.

"I am disgusted. A man takes an interest in something and he tries to accomplish a little and other people immediately begin to try to make trouble for him."

The millionaire hotly yet mournfully admitted Charley Fuller had become the property of other parties in San Francisco for a consideration. The rest of his collection was offered for sale.

Fuller, who was a perfect specimen of a chimpanzee, valued at \$10,000, first burst into prominence when he arrived in Pasadena August 1, 1909, direct from Africa to take up his habitat with Knowlton. The "chimp," who at that time had not attained his full proportions, came with a chattering contingent of three other monkeys of lesser stature—a mandrill and two ringtails—whom Knowlton promptly presented with the names of three of his intimates—Bessie Bartholomew, E. E. Lee and Mayor Early. The latter was a namesake of the Pasadena mayor at that time. Always Knowlton named his monkeys after his closest friends.

The surrounding neighborhood first held Fuller in considerable admiration. He was feted royally, given as many cigarettes as

"Suddenly a Hairy Monster Sprang Into the Room"



Mrs. Lillian S. Lindley Who Saved Her Babies from Mr. Knowlton's Chimpanzee.

The Ape, "Charles H. Fuller," Fondling a Child. Mr. Knowlton, Owner of "Fuller" Testified at the Trial of the Damage Suit That the Ape Was Educated and Gentle; but the Judge Ruled That All Monkeys Were Irresponsible Wild Beasts and Their Education and Culture Were Entirely Superficial.

a returned soldier and treated to delicacies. According to Knowlton, small neighborhood boys developed an attachment for the beast which later was to invade the sanctity of the home in Eagle Rock. These lads communicated to the "chimp" the rules and ethics of modern baseball sufficiently to make a heavy slugger and excellent base runner out of him.

The animal was petted by millionaire

Knowlton's wife and young daughter. It acquired the art of needlework and spent many afternoons with the ladies in Knowlton's sewing room.

Then Fuller became interested in what lay beyond the horizon. To him the horizon was the wall surrounding the millionaire's spacious grounds.

He went on a voyage of discovery into neighboring yards, and so thoroughly en-

joyed the experience he lured the rest of the monkey tribe in Knowlton's private zoo next time to go with him.

Always the cage doors were left open for their convenience, as Knowlton never believed in keeping them prisoners.

It was not long until the Right Rev. Joseph Johnson, Knowlton's nearest neighbor, objected to having monkey faces peering into his windows at all hours during the day and night. The presence of the huge chimpanzee skulking around his grounds also aroused his ire. Reginald D. Johnson, the preacher's son, complained to the authorities, and an ordinance was passed which required monkeys to be caged or chained to barrel organs, after the ordinance then existing in New York City. The ordinance was adopted in the Fall of 1911, and Fuller, with his cronies of lesser size, pined in their cages until the morning he tore the imprisoning bars away and loped easily over the two miles intervening between Knowlton's home and Eagle Rock.

Throughout his excursion that morning he demonstrated the stealthy trickery Poe depicts in his Rue Morgue murderer. The chimpanzee held up a startled barber and appropriated the barber's hat. With a mock gesture of courtesy he glided away, keeping a watchful glance over his shoulder at the discomfited victim. Then he rang a doorbell and a horrified housewife locked him out.

Record time was reported to have been made on his home trip after frightening the Lindley household. He stopped but once, and then it was to enter a residence where an old gentleman awoke at hearing a rattle in the cane rack in time to see the incredible apparition of a slouching chimpanzee exiting with the old gentleman's favorite walking stick!